

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gang type lawn mower system adapted to be pulled behind a tractor, comprising:
 - a. a wheel supported main frame;
 - b. a power source mounted on the main frame;
 - c. at least two mower decks connected to the main frame, each mower deck having a rotary blade;
 - d. each mower deck being movably mounted to the main frame and movable from an operative lowered position where the mower deck is operative to cut grass to an elevated stowed position ~~where at least a portion of the mower deck overlies a portion of the main frame; and~~
 - e. a drive interconnected between the power source and each of the mower decks for driving each of the mower decks whereby the mower decks are driven by a single power source mounted on the main frame; and
 - f. wherein in moving from the operative position to the stowed position each of the mower decks moves through an angle of at least 91°.
2. (Currently Amended) The gang type lawn mower of claim 1 wherein the main frame lies between two mower decks, and wherein in the lowered operative position the mower decks extend outwardly from the main frame;
 - a. wherein the main frame does not include a blade for cutting grass; and
 - b. each mower deck being pivotally connected along one side of the main frame such that when the mower deck assumes a stowed position[[;]], the underside of the mower deck faces at least partially upwardly and the entire mower deck is supported by the main frame.
3. Canceled.

4. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 wherein the drive interconnected between the power source and the mower decks include a belt drive; and wherein the gang type lawn mower system includes a belt tensioner for maintaining a tension on the belt drive.

5. Canceled.

6. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 4 wherein the belt tensioner includes a spring biased telescoping assembly that tends to bias a portion of the mower decks outwardly from the main frame.

7. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 4 wherein the belt tensioner includes a telescoping sleeve assembly.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 wherein the main frame includes at least two spaced apart caster wheels disposed on the front portion of the main frame.

11. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 including at least one belt guard extending from the main frame over a portion of one mower deck for guarding a belt drive that forms a part of the drive interconnected between the power source and the mower decks.

12. Canceled.

13. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 11 wherein each mower deck can move relative to the main frame and wherein the belt guard is operative to limit the movement of the mower deck.

14. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 13 wherein the belt guard limits the movement of the mower deck to an angle of approximately 15° with respect to the main frame.

15. Canceled.

16. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 wherein the main frame includes an upper platform having the power source mounted thereon.

17. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 16 wherein the power source includes a drive shaft extending downwardly beneath the upper platform and wherein the drive shaft has secured thereon a pair of drive sheaves that drive a belt drive that transfers torque from the drive shaft of the power source to a pair of drive shafts associated with the mower decks.

18. (Original) A gang type lawn mower system adapted to be pulled behind a tractor, comprising:

- a. a power source frame adapted to attach to the tractor and having an area for receiving and supporting an internal combustion engine thereon;
- b. an internal combustion engine mounted on the power source frame and having an output power shaft extending therefrom;
- c. the power source frame having a plurality of wheels and a pair of opposed side areas;
- d. at least two mower decks movably mounted to the power source frame, each mower deck movably mounted to one side area of the power source frame such that the power source frame lies between the two mower decks and wherein each mower deck is operative to move independently of the power source frame;
- e. each mower deck having a blade associated therewith for cutting grass;
- f. a drive extending from the power source frame to each of the mower decks and wherein the drive transfers power from the internal combustion engine to each of the mower decks so as to drive the blades associated with the mower decks;

- g. each mower deck being movable with respect to the power source frame from a lowered operative position for cutting grass to an elevated stowed position;
- h. wherein in the elevated stowed position each mower deck is turned at least partially on the mower deck's side such that an underside of the mower deck faces outwardly or at least slightly upwardly; and
- i. wherein the mower decks are exclusively driven by the internal combustion engine mounted on the power source frame that in operation trails the tractor.

19. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 18 wherein each mower deck is pivotally connected to one side of the power source frame through one or more pivot connections that permit each mower deck to swing about a longitudinal axis that extends adjacent the side area of the power source frame.

20. (Original) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 19 including a belt tensioner assembly mounted to the power source frame and extending outwardly therefrom for connection to each of the mower decks and wherein the belt tensioner assembly tends to bias each of the mower decks outwardly; and wherein the drive interconnected between the power source frame and the mower decks comprises a belt drive.

21. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 wherein in the stowed position at least a portion of the mower deck overlies a portion of the mainframe.

22. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 21 wherein in the stowed position the underside of the mower deck faces upwardly and at least slightly outwardly.

23. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 including a tongue pivotally connected to the mainframe about a transverse axis such that the tongue can move up and down about the axis.

24. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 23 including front and rear wheels secured to the mainframe.

25. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 1 including a tongue pivotally connected to the mainframe about a transverse axis such that the tongue can move up and down with respect to the mainframe about the axis; and wherein there is provided front and rear wheels mounted to the mainframe.

26. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 18 wherein each mower deck is movable through an angle of at least 91° when moving from the operative position to the stowed position.

27. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 26 wherein each deck is pivotally connected to one side of the power source frame and pivotable through an angle of at least 91° as the mower deck moves between the operative and stowed position.

28. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 18 including front and rear wheels mounted to the power source frame; and a tongue pivotally connected to the power source frame and projecting therefrom and wherein the tongue is pivotally mounted about a transverse axis such that the tongue can be moved up and down about the axis, and with respect to the power source frame.

29. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 18 wherein the power source frame includes an upper platform having the power source mounted thereon and wherein the power source includes a drive shaft extending downwardly beneath the upper platform and where the drive shaft has secured thereon a pair of drive sheaves that drive a belt that transfers torque from the drive shaft of the power source to a pair of drive shafts associated with the mower decks.

30. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 18 wherein the drive includes a belt drive and a belt tensioner for maintaining a tension on the belt drive.

31. (New) A gang type lawn mower system adapted to be pulled behind a tractor, comprising:
- a. a wheel supported mainframe;
 - b. a power source mounted on the mainframe;
 - c. at least two mower decks connected to the mainframe, each mower deck having a rotary blade;
 - d. each mower deck being movably mounted to the mainframe and movable from an operative lowered position where the mower deck is operative to cut grass to an elevated stowed position;
 - e. a drive interconnected between the power source and each of the mower decks for driving each of the mower decks whereby the mower decks are driven by a single power source mounted on the mainframe; and
 - f. wherein the mainframe includes an upper platform having a power source mounted thereon, the power source including a drive shaft extending downwardly beneath the upper platform and having a pair of sheaves secured thereto that drive a belt drive that transfers torque from the drive shaft of the power source to a pair of drive shafts associated with the mower decks.

32. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 31 wherein the mower decks are movable through an angle of at least 91° as the mower deck moves from the operative position to the stowed position.

33. (New) A gang type lawn mower system adapted to be pulled behind a tractor, comprising:
- a. a wheel supported mainframe;
 - b. a power source mounted on the mainframe;

- c. at least two mower decks connected to the mainframe, each mower deck having a rotary blade;
- d. each mower deck being movably mounted to the mainframe and movable from an operative lowered position where the mower deck is operative to cut grass to an elevated stowed position;
- e. a drive interconnected between the power source and each of the mower decks for driving each of the mower decks whereby the mower decks are driven by a single power source mounted on the mainframe;
- f. four wheels secured to the mainframe for supporting the mainframe; and
- g. a tongue pivotally connected to the mainframe about a transverse axis that permits the tongue to move up and down with respect to the mainframe and to pivot up and down about the main axis.

34. (New) The gang type lawn mower system of claim 33 wherein each mower deck is pivotally mounted to the mainframe and movable through an angle of at least 91° as each mower deck moves from the operative position to the stowed position.